

OCT - 9 2012

FCC Mail Room

To whom it does concern:

I have been housed at Spring Creek Correctional Center for nine months.

For eight months I was a mode cleaner on a set payroll of 20 hrs. a week at .50¢

But I cannot afford to call my mother Once a month! It cost \$78.00 for 30 minutes to call to Pendleton Ore. from Stewart Alaska.

But it was a great deal lower when first arrive to the prison. It made large increases with no memo or notice any kind.

I found out because my Mother looked at all the phone bills and said that she cannot afford two phone calls a month.

I cannot buy hygiene items and I send money to her. After the deductions from C.S.D I am left with a total of \$28.00 a month. "paid only on 5th"

I now have to seek longer hours in a kitchen job to be able to afford hygiene items.

I have a letter to mother telling her about the prison news letter. I have high hope that her letter will explain exactly how the cost increase has a huge impact on her personal funds.

I cannot use a computer but I have a aunt that will hope-fully contact your office also.

Sincerely Charles E. Collins

Mr. man Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

OCT - 9 2012

23 Sept. '2012

FCC Mail Room

RE: Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)

John McGovern
#501532
1250 E. Arica Rd
Eloy AZ 85131

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski,

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128). Enclosed is a print out from Global Tel*Link (my prison phone provider) regarding the "Universal Service Fund" Tax implemented by the F.C.C. on all prisoner debit interstate and debit international calls. The current amount is 15.7%. As a prisoner I am ~~paying~~ paying taxes as any other red blooded American does, however as a prisoner I am not afforded the same protections by those I pay taxes to. Does that fell right to you? Is that not what the F.C.C. is for to ensure that the people aren't taken advantage of through monopolies. Because that's what happens in prison. One call provider is available. This eliminates competition, therefore no need for competitive pricing. Add that in with greed and Kick back's (pay-off's) and we have exorbitant phone rates. Resulting in alienation of those incarcerated from thier loved ones or the bankrupting of prisoners already small finances and high phone bills for collect calls. Families have to choose between eating or talking to and expressing love to people they care about.

I am in a Correction Corp of America (CCA) facility in Arizona called Saguaro Correctional Center. We are charged roughly 24¢ per minute for interstate debit (broken down its 21¢ per min plus 15.7¢ USF Tax). It cost me a whole week's wages to talk on the phone for 20 minutes. I have to juggle who I can call and for how long.

Please do something to help with this gross overcharging of people already impoverished.

Respectfully,

John

Toll Calls

All calls, whether placed by the general public or inmates at a correctional facility are subject to USF Taxes. The USF Tax, as regulated by the FCC, has always been charged to end users that accept collect calls from your facility, and CCA has been successful over the past few years in preventing this tax from being passed on to the inmates placing debit calls. However, there have been recent changes in the structure of the USF Tax and inmate telephone service providers will no longer be covering those costs. Effective **July 9, 2012**, with your new contract, inmates will now be responsible for paying the USF Tax in addition to the cost of the call.

(NOTE: Inmates will only be responsible for paying USF Taxes on Debit Interstate and Debit International calls.) The current USF Tax rate is set at 14.4% which is applied to the total cost of the call. For example, a 30 minute Debit Interstate call will cost \$8.87; \$7.75 for the cost of the call plus \$1.12 for the USF Tax. The USF Tax rate is adjusted quarterly.

During the 3rd quarter of 2012, the USF tax rate was adjusted. The tax rate is adjusted quarterly by the FCC, not GTL. The rate fluctuates in either direction based on the Universal Service Contribution Factor established the FCC

Local calls

The base cost of the calls is \$3.00, but there are taxes and fees on top of that. The current per call taxes equal \$0.30 and the current fees equal \$0.24, totaling \$3.54 per call (per CARES transaction records). Of course rates, taxes, and fees are subject to change

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FCC Mail Room Saturday September 29, 201

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition
(CC Docket #96-128)

Shortly after my conviction my wife and young son moved from Georgia to Pennsylvania. Prior to her moving phone calls for 15 minutes ^{cost} ~~were measured~~ to a few dollars. After she moved, the calls cost just under \$25 for 15 minutes.

It is very frustrating not being able to talk to my wife of almost 19 years and 5 year old son. We limit our calls to two times per month with a budget of \$50.

The ~~prison~~ Department of Corrections literature states that a key component of my rehabilitation is family support. I would absolutely call more often, still spending approximately \$50 per month, if the individual calls were less expensive.

Warmest Regards,

Andrew Stein

Andrew Stein

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FCC Mail Room

CAPT. R. E. THORNTON USMC, RET'D**P. O. BOX 209
ARNOLDSVILLE, GEORGIA 30619
706-742-7867**

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

2 October 2012
CC Docket 96-128

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket # 96-128). I am writing to ask your help to reduce the outrageous cost of Prison phone calls. Few people understand that inmates are generally destitute and they are not the ones who pay for these calls. I have never been convicted of a criminal offense and yet I am punished by the current system because I am committed to stand by a friend who got into trouble.

Sir, these calls are an unfair tax levied on the families of inmates. No decent human would expect a father to lose touch with his child, or a wife to be prevented from contacting her husband because, through no fault of their own, they happen to love a person who is incarcerated.

The State of Georgia Department of Corrections receives a "kick back" from its financial relationship with Global Tel-Link. These funds are "profit" from inmate calls and they go to the State, which *claims* to spend the money on behalf of the inmates. This is a TAX and it is levied unfairly against, often, the poorest segment of our society.

Additionally, the families (who have committed no crime) are subjected to ruthless and unsavory business practices by Global Tel-Link. I currently have a complaint against Global Tel-Link with the Georgia Public Service Commission for deceitful and I believe, illegal business practices. These companies, like Global Tel-Link, have a monopoly and a literally captive "customer" base. Because of this, they are allowed to charge exorbitant rates. While I can pay as little as \$35 a month for hundreds of minutes of cell phone use, Global Tel-Link charges me \$5 for a 15 minute call! This is outrageous.

In my current complaint I assert that Global Tel-Link created a system that "encourages" customers to maintain a credit balance. (By "customer", I refer to the person who actually pays the bill, not the inmate.) They also have a **policy** that *allows* them to seize that credit balance and convert it to the company's general fund with no notice to the customer, if the account experiences a period of no activity. When this happened to me, I complained and they informed me that *"Just this one time we will place the credit balance back into your account"*! Global Tel-Link had stolen a \$124 credit balance from my account without even attempting to notify me. They only returned the money when I discovered the theft and took time to complain.

Clearly, Sir, the situation with these companies should be investigated and possible regulated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Respectfully Submitted

